

ATM 14 - Water Pollution Abatement

minutes from 1/20/16 A&F meeting

Lee Hartmann, Director of Planning and Development, presented Article 14. Town Meeting has approved eleven prior rounds for this greatly needed and successful septic system improvement program. Due to the popularity of the program, the funds are expended quickly. The Department of Planning and Development is recommending that the Town Treasurer borrow \$200,000 from the Massachusetts Water Pollution Abatement Trust. The state provides these funds to the Town at a 2% interest rate. The funds are made available to local homeowners for sewer hook-ups, septic system repair or replacement (systems must be failed to qualify). Loans up to \$15,000 are available per household at 5% interest (the added interest covers the Town's cost of administering the program). Loans are recorded as liens on the property and are billed by the Assessor's Office as a tax bill attachment. Terms of the loan range from five to 15 years depending on the amount borrowed. To date, this program has enabled 255 homeowners to repair/replace their failed systems. This program is administered by the Office of Community Development on behalf of the Town.

Questions:

- Is there an income requirement for homeowners to qualify for this program? (C Merrill) Households must not have more than \$150,000 of income.
- Is this program advertised? (C Merrill) Yes, it is advertised and there is always a wait list, loans are available on a first-come first-served basis.

Patrick O'Brien made a motion to recommend Article 14 to Town Meeting. Kevin Canty, second. The motion passes unanimously (13-0-0).